

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

CQWW, SSB, Starts Friday October 29
CDXA Needs Everyone's Help To Make the Top Ten

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA needs every member's help to improve our standings in the CQWW Club Competition. From 2002 to 2007 we made fairly steady progress in going from 20th place in the U.S. all the way up to 8th place. But in both 2008 and 2009 our scores fell off and we dropped back out of the Top Ten. Let's do our best to get CDXA back in to the Top Ten in 2010.

Last month's Pileup, <http://cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa1009.pdf>, describes our Contest Within a Contest, CWAC, and the marvelous prizes we are offering for your participation. Outback gift cards, trophies, certificates, and CDXA patches.

Of course, it helps to read the contest rules. They are at <http://www.cqww.com/CQWW-Rules-2010.pdf>. The rules include instructions on how to submit your scores to CQ. Remember to use "Carolina DX Association" as your club affiliation.

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
AD4IE	Paul Ponak	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Cluster Mgr.- North Area
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

Be sure to send me a summary of your score (w3oa@roadrunner.com). Please include call sign used, entry category, number of QSOs, number of countries, number of zones, and total points. We will post them on the CDXA web site as we receive them.

CDXA members Steve, AA4V, and Gaylord, N4SF, will again be operating AA4V/VP9 as a multi/2 from Bermuda. Steve says they will be trying to break the record they set last year. When you work them CDXA gets credit for both ends of the contact. So work them on every band you can.

Please let me know if I can be of any help.

Dick Williams
w3oa@roadrunner.com
 (704) 658-0915

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
NA4L (AR Cluster via Telnet)	cdxa.no-ip.org
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

Welcome New Members

September brought the arrival of two new members to CDXA. First in the door was **Ron Lawrence (W4RON)** of Matthews, NC. In a bio sketch Ron sent out via the CDXA Reflector, we learned that Ron is a collector of antique radios and currently president of the Carolinas Chapter of the Antique Wireless Association. His name was not unfamiliar to any CDXA member who worked as an operator in the radio room at Discovery Place, since Ron had some of his articles on display there for Discovery Place visitors to see. He's already paid a visit to the luncheon crowd, and he's due to be at the Barbeque on October 9. Look for him there.

Close on the heels of Ron was **Ryan Cairnes (K3XC)**. Ryan moved to the area recently, but not so recently that he hasn't got a tower up. His went up in the last month. Ryan keeps busy designing radio networks for Verizon Wireless. He is former member of the Frankford Radio Club, and after a four year hiatus from radio is happily back on the air. But, at age 27 he's looking forward to many more years on the air.

Welcome to CDXA Ron and Ryan!!

Errata

In the Column "Ten and Twenty Years Ago. . ." in the September, 2010 issue of the *Pileup*, the callsign given for Skip Richardson (SK) as a past officer of CDXA was AA4V. Of course, AA4V is the callsign of Steve Reichlyn of Isle of Palms, SC. The correct callsign for Skip Richardson was AA4U.

Callsigns AA4R, AA4S, AA4U, and AA4V were originally issued to CDXA members. AA4V is still very

much alive and well in addition to being a long time member of CDXA. Noted author Mark Twain, upon reading his obituary placed in a newspaper by a non-admirer of his stated, "Reports of my demise are premature." This error was unintentional, and does not reflect a lack of admiration for Steve. Our apologies are humbly offered to Steve. —*The Editor*

Ten and Twenty Years Ago

(The material in this column is extracted from the Pileup archives on the CDXA website. Your editor now knows he's been on the job 10 years when he finds that he's extracting material from an article he wrote in 2000!)

Ten Years Ago

Ted Goldthorpe acting only as a member of CDXA, spearheaded an awards program within CDXA to encourage members to get involved in the CQWW contests. This was the early underpinnings of the "Contest Within a Contest" that has spurred many to get started in contesting in recent years. . . . Roger Burt (N4ZC) penned his now well read article on the strategy required to do well in CQWW. A few months after this article, former member Todd Brady confessed that he had always turned his radio off on contest weekends, but he had really "gotten into" contesting in a recent contest after reading Roger's aforementioned article. A few years later Todd was regularly turning in scores in CQWW at the 2,000,000+ level! Roger's article in the October 2000 issue of the *Pileup* is still recommended reading.

Twenty Years Ago

Roger Burt, N4ZC, had just finished a good outing with a few others as a multi-single in the WAE contest scoring nearly 1,350,000 points. As a historic first, the team had made its first use of K1EA's "new" contesting software, CT. For those who remember, CT was a blessing compared to the old way of preparing DUPE sheets. Alas, CT went the way of a lot of DOS programs. . . . The CDXA PacketCluster was being built out with connections to neighboring PacketCluster nodes. A link to a cluster in Roanoke, Virginia was being brought up with an intermediate node in the Winston-Salem area. Many were happy that the cluster seemed to be staying "up" quite well. How time's change—now we're using telnet via the Internet to interconnect with data transfer rates 500 to 1000 times faster than the old 1200 bits/second packet radio rates.

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$35 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$20 otherwise, payable each December. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.



DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a CDXA Jacket from Lands' End or an AES Gift Certificate are on page 10 of the January 2010 Pileup (<http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa1001.pdf>).

Item 2: These are the scores I have for the 2010 DX King competition as of Sept 30:

<u>Call</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Countries</u>	<u>Zones</u>	<u>Total</u>
K5EK	Unlimited	254	40	294
W3GQ	Unlimited	243	39	282
W4HG	Unlimited	234	40	274
W7DO*	Unlimited	232	40	272
K4YR	Unlimited	219	40	259
W3OA	Unlimited	218	38	256
N4PQX	Unlimited	205	40	245
W4UFO	Unlimited	172	39	211
W3ZL	Formula	170	34	204
N2TU	Unlimited	162	38	200
K8YC	Unlimited	152	35	187
W3NC	Unlimited	147	34	181
KZ2I	Unlimited	143	36	179
K1MIJ	Unlimited	130	33	163
W4HLD	Unlimited	120	32	152
K4ESE	Unlimited	119	32	151
K4DXA	Unlimited	107	32	139
W4WNT	Formula	103	27	130
N4QVM	Unlimited	89	28	117

* All CW

Item 3: Don't forget to send me your DX Marathon scores (w3oa@roadrunner.com) as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100.

Common Wisdom

Don't join dangerous cults, practice safe sects!

If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.

A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'

CQWW Easy Multipliers

By Dick Williams, W3OA

Email chatter from the last contest season showed some of our members had missed some of the "Easy Multipliers" in contests. The idea of keeping a table showing the Easy Multipliers was attributed to N4ZC in an October 2003 Pileup article by W3GQ. It's been mentioned a few times since then but seems to bear repeating now.

The idea is to make sure you work the US and the North American zones (3, 4, and 5) for multiplier credit on each band. You can work either U.S. or Canadian stations to get these zones but it's better to work Canadians because you will also get QSO points for those contacts. US stations don't count for QSO points. But, your first contact with any US station on a band counts for a country multiplier. It's handy to use a table like the one below. Just check the boxes as you work these multipliers the first time to avoid missing any.

	160	80	40	20	15	10
U.S.A.						
Zone 3						
Zone 4						
Zone 5						

Three Hundred Million QSLs and Growing!

This email about Logbook of the World (LoTW) from Bob Burton came across the Editor's Desk in the past week:

A New Milestone for LoTW:

300,022,268 QSO records have been entered into the system.

32,837,237 QSL records have resulted.

35,946 Users are registered in the system

54,297 Certificates are active

1,662,427 User files have been processed

300,000,000 QSOs and counting!...73's Bob, N4PQX

Next time you see Wayne Mills, offer him your thanks for doggedly pursuing the completion of Logbook of the World while working at ARRL —*The Editor*.

Using N1MM in Contests

Dick Williams, W3OA

When I first started using N1MM I thought the Bandmap window should be the focus of my attention because it allowed me to click on spots to tune to stations one by one as I progressed up and down the band. I have since found out there are better ways to use N1MM including paying a lot more attention to the Available Mults and Q's windows, shown below.

Available - 78 Mults 180 Qs (Basic YFO Control)				
Mults		Qs		
8	160	5/5		
4	80	9/9		
11	40	30/31		
24	20	63/125		
13	15	47/104		
18	10	26/27		
Call	Freq	Dir	Mode	TS
ZS1QIN	14201.0	103*	USB	10-03 1659
Z21BB	14246.8	093*	USB	10-03 1614
YS2/PB2T	14011.0	201*	CW	10-03 1647
VE2TFL	14140.0	027*	CW	10-03 1716
UR5UR	14103.0	038*	CW	10-03 1732
UR2LX	14165.0	038*	USB	10-03 1709
UA9AEI	14004.0	021*	CW	10-03 1657
UA3GX	14070.0	032*	CW	10-03 1728
TK5AE	14195.1	054* ⁸	USB	10-03 1643
TK4AE	14195.0	054* ⁸	USB	10-03 1647
TF4M	14127.0	032*	CW	10-03 1728
SQ7V/MM	14071.2	040*	CW	10-03 1719
RN6AM	14103.0	038*	CW	10-03 1728
RA3WF	14069.0	035*	CW	10-03 1622
R9CQ	14083.8	020*	CW	10-03 1634
R6DD	14135.5	038*	CW	10-03 1620

Here are some hints (with some editing) I've picked up in the last year.

Dave, K1TTT, posted the following on the N1MM Yahoo Group:

Some philosophy on using the windows may be in order. First remember, N1MM is primarily a CONTEST logger. Most of us who use packet in contests seriously want to see EVERYTHING that is on the band, workable or not.

1. The Packet/Telnet window is only good for setting up the connection and filters. Then it gets minimized and ignored. With busy clusters and especially Skimmers during a contest its impossible to see something on there, figure out you need it, then catch and double click it on the fly.

2. The Bandmap has only one use -- zoom in and watch it as you tune the radio to see who it is that is

on the frequency you are tuning across. The color code tells you if you need it or not so you can quickly move on or stop. I tell my operators NOT to ever click in the Bandmap, watch it as you tune with it zoomed in so each spot shows horizontally from the frequency tick.

3. The Available Mults and Q's window is where you look to find things you need. Keep it sorted so the newest spots are on top since those are most likely to be current and easily grabbable. Change the filters during the contest to show multipliers near the start then add new QSO's when things slow down. Keep it focused on the one band you are on most of the time and watch the counts of new mults on other bands to figure out if you want to see what is there or QSY.

Seeing LOTS of stuff in the Bandmap is good when you use it for what it is best at, letting you know who you are listening to before they send their call. This means you DO want to see all the stateside CQ's on there so you know who NOT to listen to. And yes of course you should copy the call to be sure that's really who it still is before calling them, but if you only hear the last couple letters as you tune across and they match up you can be pretty confident you can keep moving or stop and call.

Seeing too much stuff in the Available Mults and Q's window can be a problem. That is why you filter it down to just multipliers at first then open it up later.

Members Paul, W3GQ, and Joe, KI4TZ, swapped some more ideas on using N1MM in an email exchange. W3GQ wrote:

The layout of the various N1MM windows is important. There are "need to know" windows and "nice to know" windows. The trick is to get the most important information where you are most likely to see and use it. I used a core of four windows, Available Mults and Q's, Logbook, Entry, and Check windows. I didn't use the Bandmap nearly as much as before.

In the Check window you can click on a call to move it to the entry window. So if you hear a partial call, enter what you have and then check the Check window. Once you have the complete call, click on it in the Check window.

Sometimes I tune to a call in the Bandmap, or click

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on a call somewhere to move it to the entry window where it sits just above the call sign blank. Now don't just let it sit there. Hit the space bar to move it into the entry window and immediately look at the Check window. If the call shows up there, it is probably a good call. If the Check window says "Unique", double and triple check the call. If it is an unwanted call, remove it with the ALT W keys.

All of these things are really made easier by properly positioning the windows. So play with what works for you. This is a very complex program with lots of undiscovered goodies!

KI4TZ added: I think the Available Mults and Q's window is the most valuable element in N1MM. I use the column sort to help me work a run sometimes. I worked 8 or 9 F's right in a row by sorting the Call column. When propagation is good to a certain area I sort by direction and just work up or down the line.

And W3GQ responded: I kept the Available Mults and Qs window sorted by direction (to minimize antenna rotation.). Then I went down the list until I found a station I could hear, say a station in France. Then I resorted on the call sign and worked all the French stations I could hear. I found out that if the band is open to France, it isn't necessarily open to, say Germany.

I hope these hints will help you raise your QSO rate in CQWW.

Netherlands Antilles Update

(The following commentary was provided by Carl Smith, N4AA, on Thursday, October 7, 2010. Carl is the Publisher of DX Magazine and QRZ DX and a member of CDXA.)

Hello DXers:

Ward Silver, N0AX, who I'm sure most of you know, has offered a suggestion for the huge pileups expected this weekend for the "PJ" operations.

"Since there is likely to be a lot of confusion with multiple stations and multiple pileups, it would be a good idea to suggest that DXers take an extra step to insure that they are in the log of the station they think they are working. Here's my suggestion - send both calls when responding to the DX station.

DX: QRZ de PJ0A

Pileup: #\$\$%^&*()

DX: N0AX 59

N0AX: PJ0A from N0AX 59 thanks

DX: N0AX QSL QRZ de PJ0A

I am sending a request to the DX stations on the list that they send their call sign during EVERY transmission and that they send the call sign of the station being worked before calling the pileup again."

Ward reflects what I've been saying—work every PJ station you can, but be sure you know which one you are working.

Here is the latest list of calls as shown on the NG3K web site: PJ2T, PJ4B, PJ4N, PJ4/AH6HY, PJ5/K1XM, PJ5/AA4NC, PJ6A, PJ7E, PJ7/K1GI (November), PJ7/AA4NC, PJ7/AH6HY.

All of these calls have been "announced" for operation sometime between October 10 & 30.

Lee, KH6BZF also provided the following coordinates for the islands:

PJ4 BONAIRE IS	68-DEG:28 W	12-DEG:15" N
PJ5 ST. EUSTATIUS IS	62-DEG:58' W	17-DEG:30' N
PJ6 SABA IS.	63-DEG:14; W	17-DEG:38 N
PJ7 ST. MAARTEN IS	63-DEG:03' W	18-DEG:01 N

GL to everyone for the next few weeks in breaking through the pileups. This is history in the making. Never before have there been so many "NEW ONES" active at the same moment in time.

73,
Carl, N4AA

W4DXCC / SEDCO Brings Accolades

From some of the comments floating around the discussion groups as SEDCO VI wound down, there seemed to be many who felt the presentations in 2010 were excellent. This in no way was a negative commentary on presentations in earlier years, but rather the breadth and topics this year seemed to touch everybody in a way that kept them engaged during the entire conference.

For those of us who've only heard of spark gap trans-

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mitters, we were spellbound by N4GG's authentic reproduction of a spark transmitter from the era of about 1920. "Blue Lightning" sure got everyone's attention as the key was depressed. The adrenalin flowed even more when one was allowed to send his callsign realizing that the key had 110v volts across the gap and the spark generator was turning out 50,000 volts stored with enough capacitance to be lethal if you got your fingers in the wrong place. Fortunately, this device got a lot of well earned respect.

The gang from Midway (K4M) gave us a great run-down on how that event got started with some creative team selection done by the Fish and Wildlife Service. According to the team, if you ever saw Alfred Hitchcock's famous movie "The Birds", you might get spooked on Midway Island.

There was an excellent presentation by K3RFI on how to find RFI in the local electrical power grid. This fellow is one who actually trains electrical line crews on how to locate noise sources as a consultant to the power industry. And, from what he says, there is a lot of learning to do, but since he's been retained by some large electrical utilities to train their crews, things ARE getting better. Did you know a noise source can be something as simple as a metallic staple securing a ground wire in close proximity to where the voltage gradients are high?

Scott Robbins, W4PA provided a great rundown on what it was like to participate in his first WRTC event in Russia. According to Scott, the event was very well organized by the Russian sponsors, and he was ever more comfortable upon arriving in Moscow to find that he actually knew two of the sponsor's hosts that he'd met when they were in the USA. We hope the USA can do as well when it is the WRTC sponsor.

Operating a station remotely is everyone's hot topic. One of the regulars of the "Tennessee 8" who comes to Charlotte every spring, Don Prater (W4TO) has built himself a fine station which he can operate remotely using his PC at home and his "mouse wheel" to tune the dial. Neat stuff.

There was much more, of course. You ought to plan on going next year.

The banquet had its usual array of great prizes. The two grand prizes were an IC-7600 donated by ICOM America, and an FT-2000 donated by Yaesu. Happily, CDXA's Robert McNeill (W4MBD), photo below,

walked away with the FT-2000! A number of vendors were present so that a person could ask all the questions he wanted, and more are to be present next year. Due to popularity of the banquet this year, not everyone could get a seat. The organizers already have said they'll have room for 300 at the banquet next year. SEDCO co-founder Lynn Lamb reported to this writer recently that Mainstay Suites is already seeing a lot of reservations for next year's event.. See you there. Get your reservations in early.



CDXA member, Robert McNeill (W4MBD), receives a Yaesu FT-2000 from Lou Dietrich, N2TU, representing Yaesu. Robert won the radio in one of the two grand prize raffles. SEDCO, a non-profit organization, distributes proceeds from the event to organizations working to enhance the amateur radio experience. All prizes—raffle and door prizes—are donated by vendors and individuals.

Barbeque 2010 Sets Record

By John Scott, Editor

The 2010 version of the Annual CDXA Barbeque appears to have set a record for attendance. Nearly 80 men, women, and children were welcomed at the home of Bob (N4PQX) and Wanda Burton to partake of the tasty Barbeque prepared by Ric Porter (AA4SC)—longtime proprietor of Rock Hill's Branding Iron Restaurant. The event capped a warm, dry autumn day highlighted by perfectly clear Carolina Blue skies. The event came to an end only when darkness made it difficult to see the person with whom one was conversing.

People came from far and wide to enjoy the event. From the east Nyles McKeithan (KS4S) and his XYL

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came in from Lumberton just for the evening. From the north, Charles Lewis (KY4P) and XYL Lesley (N3TIA) made the long trip from West Jefferson for the event. Interestingly, I heard Nyles and Charles chatting about earlier days when Charles was a teacher in the school attended by Nyles in Lumberton! From the south in Columbia, SC, Gary Martek (W7DO) and Lynette (KD7BVO) made the trek to the Burton's spread. I honestly can't pick out who was our attendee from farthest west. It may have been Charles Lewis, or perhaps Hal Bouton (N4QT) if we count Hal's mountain home as his "official" residence.

While Ric Porter's BBQ fulfilled the entrée of the evening there were a number of delightful desserts provided potluck style by those in attendance. I think I saw a few folks returning to the dessert table just to make sure something went to waist.....er, nothing went to waste.

I did spot a few of our newer members at the event. (Sorry, I didn't get to meet all of them.) Ryan Cairnes (K3XC) and his lady friend got their taste of their first CDXA BBQ. John Fulton (W7WZ) and Ron Lawrence (W4RON) also were seen meeting new (and old) friends. Take a gander at the pictures below. I'm sure you see someone you know. And, I hope to see you at the BBQ again next year.



Above, Ryan Cairnes (K3XC) chats with Charles Lewis (KY4P, ex-S9SS). Ryan is new to CDXA and got to meet many new friends.

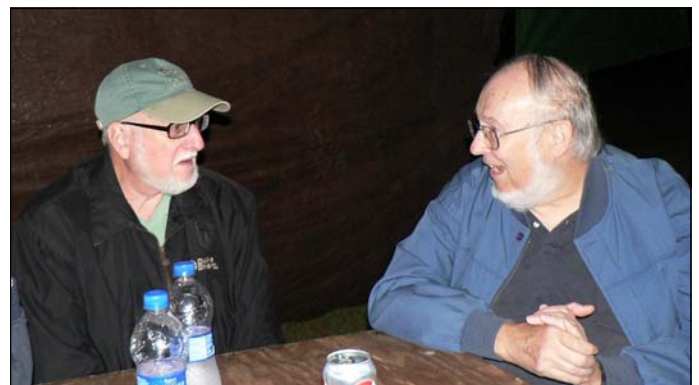
To the right, While darkness descends, Hal Bouton (N4QT) listens to Roger Burt (N4ZC) tell how hams played a role in Lithuania's break from the former Soviet Union.



Eric Webner (KA8FAN) and Jim Miller (K4SQR) talk radio while Tim O'Rourke (W4YN) and his XYL watch the photographer's antics.



Familiar CDXA faces line up for BBQ (Left to right): Ken Cannaday (W4NZC), Bill Jennings (W4UNP), Joe Spears (AF1E), and Ken Boyd (K4DXA).



The Back Page

CWAC or “**Contest Within a Contest**” is upon us again as CQWW nears. Help CDXA boost its standings in the club scoring in 2010. See Page 1.

It's not too late to become the “**DX King**”. Competition is “hot” again in 2010 with leader Ed Keubert holding the lead with 294 DXCC entities and zones so far. See Page 3.

A good scoring tip for **CQWW** is to make sure you at least get the “easy” zones in North America. A convenient tool will be found on Page 3.

Logbook of the World reaches a new milestone. See Page 3.

Are you using **N1MM Logger** for your contesting software? If not, maybe you should be. It's available as a free download. If you are, here are a few tips from the pros on how to use N1MM Logger to your best advantage. See Page 4.

10/10/10—The Date the **Netherland Antilles** Islands are restructured. Here's a recap of who'll be on the air to give you these new entities as the “old entities” are retired. See Page 5.

SEDCO Recap. What, you didn't make it in 2010? You missed a good conference, and another CDXA member came home with a nice prize! See Page 5.

EXTRA!! CDXA Barbeque hosts nearly 80 folks. Story and photos of this very recent event will be found inside. See Page 6-7.

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.